

DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

NRDA BY THE NUMBERS — December 1, 2010

The NOAA role in this Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) began on **April 20, 2010**, in the hours immediately following the report of an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon mobile drilling unit. Personnel began monitoring the oil's trajectory and collecting environmental data.

By mid-May, NOAA and its partners had formed *more than a dozen technical working groups* devoted to assessing damages to various types of natural resources, from our coastlines to the deep seas, and from plankton to porpoises.

Three federal agencies (Commerce, Interior, Defense) and *five affected states* (Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, Texas) are co-trustees in the NRDA.

The "Notice of Intent to Conduct Restoration Planning" (released by the co-trustees September 29, 2010) names *eight responsible parties*: BP Exploration and Production, Inc. ("BP"); Transocean Holdings Inc. ("Transocean"); Triton Asset Leasing GmbH ("Triton"); Transocean Offshore Deepwater Drilling Inc. ("Transocean Offshore"); Transocean Deepwater Inc. ("Transocean Deepwater"); Anadarko Petroleum ("Anadarko"); Anadarko E&P Company LP ("Anadarko E&P"); and MOEX Offshore 2007 LLC ("MOEX").

As of early November, response teams had documented *2,263 visibly oiled dead birds; 2,079 visibly oiled live birds; 18 visibly oiled dead sea turtles; and 456 visibly oiled live sea turtles.*

In most large oil spill cases, the total samples collected from the field number in the hundreds. As of Nov. 15, 2010, NRDA teams had collected *29,599 environmental samples* for analysis.

Our *laboratories have conducted 37,183 NRDA analyses* on these samples.

More than 8,000 analyses have been validated and made available to the public.

The almost *30,000 total samples* include those collected by *83 offshore research cruises* NOAA either has conducted or under way, and include:

- *17,026 water samples*
- *3,806 sediment samples*
- *5,007 tissue samples*
- *1,917 tarball samples.*

Photographs represent an important type of data collection. As of late November, NRDA teams had logged *34,768 images.*

NRDA teams have surveyed about *4,000 linear miles of shoreline.*

NRDA teams have deployed *several hundred transmitters in wide-ranging species* like whale sharks, bluefin tuna and sperm whales to inform studies designed to detect changes in species behavior, reproductive patterns and mortality.